

contracts, and cull their advertisers as they did their contributors. . . .

"And then comes, in the December JOURNAL, his wish expressed to us for a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year—and the jubilation that we are all alive, when he, dear man, is not—so that the wish—his last for us—comes to us, literally, from his grave, and we can all be most certain that, wherever the consciousness which we knew as Phil. Jones may exist, that wish is just as keen and living as it was on the day he wrote it for us to read it in this December."

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California Medicine, scientific and organized, owes much to the late Dr. Philip Mills Jones* and the group of loyal officers and workers who, with him, laid the foundations for the California Medical Association of today, and Doctor Jones's "New-Year Prayer" of twenty-five years ago still applies with equal and even more force. CALIFORNIA AND WESTERN MEDICINE presents it in the hope that its warmth of feeling and breadth of outlook may be taken to heart, by each and all of us; for then, at the end of the year 1938, no matter what trials and tribulations may have come to us, we shall still remain stronger and better units in organized medicine.

WOMAN'S AUXILIARY TO THE CALIFORNIA MEDICAL ASSOCIATION: ITS PUBLICATION, "CALIFORNIA MEDICAL AUXILIARY COURIER"

Woman's Auxiliary Department of "California and Western Medicine."—Each issue of CALIFORNIA AND WESTERN MEDICINE presents, as one of its departments, "The Woman's Auxiliary to the California Medical Association," and we hope that the reports therein submitted are read not only by members of the Auxiliary, but by the California Medical Association members as well. It has been most interesting to note during the last several years, not only the steady growth of the Auxiliary through organization of new units, and consistent gains in membership in county auxiliaries already established, but also the record of increasing scope of work and influence.

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Active Medical Practice Makes for Certain Limitations.—Let us be frank with ourselves. The responsibility of administrative endeavor in medical societies necessarily falls on the shoulders of a few members, the tendency being to let the physicians so elected or appointed bear the brunt of solving the problems so constantly coming to the front. In days gone by, with less social unrest than at present, the demands upon county medical society officers were not over-great, being limited at times to little more than preparation of programs for a certain number of scientific meetings to be held throughout the year. That condition, however, no longer obtains. Out of the air, almost, now come constantly new propositions to be faced, put forward sometimes, by well-meaning but poorly visioned organizations, but at other times, not infrequently, advanced by groups ill-intentioned from the outset toward the standards and advancement of scientific medicine and the

public health. In short, the old order has changed, and it needs no deep study to convince an observing person that present-day menaces to scientific medicine will only be successfully overcome provided all members of the medical profession, as represented in organized medicine, and with the support of friends, will stand shoulder to shoulder, and give battle to those who, under whatever flag, would destroy medical practice as it has come into being through an evolutionary trial and error process. Granted that among the plans of theorizing visionaries and propagandists there may be here and there somewhat of merit, it still remains true, and is common sense, that in order to incorporate changes to overcome certain deficiencies in medical practice, it is not necessary and would be reprehensible to attempt reforms by revolutionary procedures that, in the end, would do more harm to public health interests than the good they were intended to or might bring into being.

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Present-Day Turmoil of Economic and Social Unrest.—In the unsettled state in which the Nation is now trying to solve some of its economic and social-welfare problems, the theorizing propagandists have precisely the conditions favorable to the dissemination of their mouthings. To appreciate this, one needs only to glance through the newspapers and read between the lines, and observe how different is the portrayal of current news events than was the case a few years ago. The "free and independent press" of the present hour—believe it or not—watches, with keen eye, the trend of popular opinion, and, in contrast to days gone by, speaks kindly of this, that, or the other endeavor, when, not so long ago, the same matters would have received almost caustic editorial and reportorial criticism and comment.

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The Lesson to Be Taken to Heart.—What is the lesson in all this, and what has it to do with the Woman's Auxiliary to the California Medical Association? Just this: Scientific and Organized Medicine need today every bit of their strength to successfully cope with the antagonistic influences directed against public health and medical practice. Most physicians, in the daily practice of their profession, have little time to sit in at service and other clubs where antimicrobial propagandists hold forth. Since, however, practically one-half of all clubs are women's organizations, it is understandable how representatives of the Woman's Auxiliaries to the California Medical Association, whose members take an active interest in the work of their literary, service and other clubs, can render most important aid in guiding aright, on public health and medical practice needs, the policies of such organizations.

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State and County Auxiliaries in California Are on the Alert.—A perusal of the activities of the California county society auxiliaries, as given in each issue of the OFFICIAL JOURNAL, convinces one that the wives and daughters of California physicians are becoming increasingly

* For biographical data from *Journal A. M. A.* of December 2, 1916, see page 60 in this issue of CALIFORNIA AND WESTERN MEDICINE.

responsive of their own responsibilities in these matters. And it may be said, to their credit, that they are more than meeting their obligations. Wherefore, we welcome the messages brought to us in their semiannual publication, the *California Medical Auxiliary Courier*, and express the hope that, at some day not too far distant, the State Auxiliary will present to the California Medical Association Council for consideration, ample copy for a Supplement to CALIFORNIA AND WESTERN MEDICINE, in order that every member of the California Medical Association may note for himself what the gentler members of physicians' families are doing to promote the conservation of the public health and the advancement of medical science. If the California Auxiliary will continue to work in the future with the splendid discretion it has exhibited in the past, there must come to us all the wish that in due time—and not too far away—every county medical society of the California Medical Association will have associated with it a component county unit of the Woman's Auxiliary to the California Medical Association. Speed the day!

THIS AND THAT

Congratulations to Dr. Joseph P. Widney, Founder of the Los Angeles County Medical Association, on Attaining His Ninety-sixth Birthday.—December 26, 1937, was the ninety-sixth birthday of Joseph P. Widney,* M.D., D.D., LL.D., founder of the Los Angeles County Medical Association; founder also of the College of Medicine of the University of Southern California; co-founder of the *Southern California Practitioner*; ex-president of the University of Southern California, where, in the panic of 1893, as president, he pledged his personal resources to prevent foreclosures on the University's property; oldest living graduate of the University of California (Toland Medical College, 1866); an exemplar of the highest type of citizenship as manifested through years of consistent service; and a writer and author of half a dozen notable volumes, who only a few months ago, at the age of 95, brought off the press his latest book, "Civilizations and Their Diseases, and Rebuilding a Wrecked World Civilization."[†]

The career of Doctor Widney, who was born on December 26, 1841, has indeed been most remarkable, standing out as it does among his medical colleagues and fellow citizens like a beacon light to be seen afar by all who would chart their lives along lines of service and achievement. A bronze

* For biographical and other references concerning Dr. Joseph P. Widney, see CALIFORNIA AND WESTERN MEDICINE, April and May, 1936, pages 292 and 396.

† Review of this volume in CALIFORNIA AND WESTERN MEDICINE for December, 1937, on page 367.

Other volumes by Doctor Widney include:

Race Life of the Aryan Peoples, in two volumes. Pp. 698. New York: Funk & Wagnalls Company, 1907.

The Lure and the Land. Pp. 190. Los Angeles: Pacific Publishing Company, 1932.

The Genesis and Evolution of Islam and Judaeo Christianity. Pp. 238. Los Angeles: Pacific Publishing Company, 1932.

The Faith That Has Come to Me. Pp. 269. Los Angeles: Pacific Publishing Company, 1932.

Whither Away? Pp. 152. Los Angeles: Pacific Publishing Company, 1934.

The Three Americas. Pp. 306. Los Angeles: Pacific Publishing Company, 1935.

bust of the founder graces the rostrum of the auditorium of the Los Angeles County Medical Association headquarters building, there to remind members of that large component county unit how splendidly a life may be devoted to the service of mankind, both for todays of the present and the tomorrows of the future.

We extend to Doctor Widney, therefore, on behalf of the 5,700 members of the California Medical Association, our best wishes for the good health and happiness he has so richly earned, and urge a perusal of his latest book, from which some paragraphs are given below, for sober reflection upon the code which he long ago mapped out for himself as his own guide in his life work:

"I have never written for money. The sole object has been the carving out of broader lines for the human race. For more than fifty years of careful historical study, I have thought, and planned, and worked to this end. This ultimate purpose has run through all my publications. I have not placed upon the public market the books which I have written. I had not the time for this in an over-worked life, nor have I had the means. My works have been placed, instead, in the great public reading rooms, and libraries, and colleges and universities of the world, where they might find the largest number of readers. This has drained heavily upon my private resources, so much so that I must still go on in the same old way. It is my contribution to the uplift of humanity and the making of a better world, and with this I am content.

"I am near to the beginning of my ninety-seventh year. Owing to injuries received in an accident, I have had to do all my work under the heavy handicap of being crippled, and in blindness, and in pain. Every word that I have published, for many years, I have had to dictate. What this means in patience, in difficulty, in labor, only one who has gone through it can know.

"There is still much that I have planned. Following the book now in the press ("Civilizations and Their Diseases, and Rebuilding a Wrecked Civilization"), there must come as a separate volume the work on the future of the Engle Man ("The Future of the English-Speaking Peoples"), to which I have made reference; thereafter, a book on "Life and Its Problems as Seen by a Blind Man at Ninety- —?" In addition, there is other work which I need not enumerate. I had planned for a century; but this is in the Hands of One to Whom the centuries are only as a work-day. His will be done.

"Domine ad Te oculos cæcos levabo!"

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Professor A. W. Meyer's Article.—In CALIFORNIA AND WESTERN MEDICINE for December appeared several articles concerning which comment may be made.

In the original article section, space was given to the scholarly discussion entitled "Use Destruction in the Human Body," contributed by A. W. Meyer, M.D., professor of anatomy at Stanford University. The facts therein outlined, based as they are on extensive and careful observations covering many years, and which are called, in conservative and scientific manner, to the attention of members, will have appeal not only to readers of CALIFORNIA AND WESTERN MEDICINE, but also to students of the subject, both at home and abroad. The contribution is a welcome addition to the literature.

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District of Columbia and "Liberal Press" Articles.—In each issue of the OFFICIAL JOURNAL is a department given over to Special Articles,